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[BRIEF] TO THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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of the

PROVINCE OF ALBERTA

from

THE ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL  
ENGINEERS OF ALBERTA

January, 1970







THE ASSOCIATION OF  
PROFESSIONAL



ENGINEERS  
OF ALBERTA

TELEPHONES: 422-0035  
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(ADMINISTRATORS OF "THE ENGINEERING AND RELATED PROFESSIONS ACT" OF ALBERTA)

604 ROYAL TRUST BUILDING  
EDMONTON 15, ALBERTA



January 8, 1970.

To the Chairman and Members of the Executive Council,  
The Government of the Province of Alberta,  
Legislative Building,  
Edmonton, Alberta.

Mr. Premier and Gentlemen:

The enclosed submission is distributed as a basis for  
general discussion at the meeting to be held with you at 10:00 a.m.  
on Thursday, January 15, 1970.

It is anticipated that the Association will be represented  
at the meeting by members of the Association's Executive Committee  
(consisting of the President, the immediate Past President Mr. P. M.  
Butler; and the Vice President Mr. W. A. B. Saunders) and the  
Association Registrar, Mr. I. G. Finlay. It is possible that one or  
two additional representatives may be in attendance for discussion  
of particular items in the submission.

This continuing opportunity to meet with members of  
the Cabinet for general discussion and exchange of information and  
ideas is, in the opinion of the Association, an extremely valuable  
form of liaison.

Yours respectfully,

R. H. Swann, P. Eng.,  
PRESIDENT.

RHS:jmc



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1	It is recommended that the status of water as a resource of prime importance be fully recognized; that a clear separation be made between policy-making and administrative functions related to the administration of water resources; and that an Alberta Water Resources Authority be established to administer all phases of water resources.	Management of Water Resources
2	It is suggested that the present procedure used by the Commission should be reviewed.	Employment of Consultants by Alberta Securities Commission
6	Financially information but does not contain a full picture of the social and business aspects of the industry.	Engineering Education
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8	Study of Paper by the Engineering Profession.	Federal White Paper on Taxation
9	Major Convention to be held in Jasper - May 16 to 23.	Western Congress of Engineering - 1970
10	Program initiated last year is progressing.	Aid to Developing Countries

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## Management of Water Resources

### 1. Introduction

With the increasing industrialization of Alberta, and with decreasing sources of water supply in other areas of the North American continent, water is rapidly growing in importance to the continuing development of the Province and the well-being of its citizens.

For this reason, a special committee of the Association of Professional Engineers of Alberta under the chairmanship of Mr. R. T. White, P. Eng., has been studying various aspects of Water Resource Management in the Province.

As indicated in the brief submitted by the Association to the Provincial Cabinet last year, the study has concerned itself with the four areas of Education and Research, Administration, Safety, and Promulgation.

This particular submission deals with Administration. It is intended that more detailed studies will continue in the area of Administration as well as in the remaining three areas of concern.

### 2. Recommendation

That the stature of water as a resource of prime importance be fully recognized; that a clear separation be made between policy-making and administrative functions related to the administration of water resources; and that an Alberta Water Resources Authority be established to administer all phases of water resources.





### 3. Basis for Recommendation

It is submitted that the following points provide good reason for proposing that the present status of water administration requires an upward revision:

- (a) There is an increased public awareness of the importance of water resources and a general demand for a new emphasis on various aspects of water resource management.
- (b) At present, responsibility for the administration of water resources is divided throughout a variety of agencies. There is a need for centralization to avoid conflict and duplication of jurisdictions.
- (c) The recent federal government white paper on water resources emphasizes the urgency attached to the need for clarification of provincial policies and procedures.
- (d) Increasing population and usage of water resources further emphasizes the need of establishing a well defined provincial policy.
- (e) There is a rapidly growing public concern regarding the pollution and protection of water resources.
- (f) There is concurrently a growing public concern regarding any prospect of export of water.
- (g) Some aspects of water resources require additional attention - for example, recreational usages.
- (h) The proposed form of water administrative authority would provide a better basis for dealing on matters of water resources with other provinces and federal agencies.
- (i) The present multiplicity of authorities in the water resource field tends to reduce the effectiveness of the administration.

### 4. Specific Areas of Administrative Concern

It is suggested that the following constitute some of the aspects of Water Resources which need to be adequately served by an administrative authority:





- (a) Agricultural, industrial, municipal and domestic demands.
- (b) Power requirements.
- (c) Flow regulations, storage and diversion.
- (d) Pollution.
- (e) Soil conservation and erosion and sedimentation control.
- (f) Groundwater.
- (g) Interprovincial and international involvements.
- (h) Flood control.
- (i) Drainage.
- (j) Communication-promulgation of water resource projects.
- (k) Education and research.
- (l) Recreation.
- (m) Navigation.

5. Proposed General Concept for Water Management

- (a) The establishment of policies and laws relating to water resources must obviously remain in the hands of the legislature and Executive Council.
- (b) Responsibility for the administration of all matters related to water resources in the Province should be seated in an Alberta Water Resources Authority.
- (c) It is suggested that the Authority should consist of a Chairman and the Directors of the four key areas of responsibility:
  - (i) Quality of Water -  
Treatment, Protection, Rehabilitation, Standards.
  - (ii) Quantity of Water -  
Licensing, flow regulation inventory, diversion, storage, existing demand.
  - (iii) Planning -  
New phases, concepts, and uses.





- (iv) Supplemental Services -  
Intergovernmental needs, special protection, export,  
import, communication, education and research,  
future developments, long-term policy requirements.

## 6. Continuation of Studies by the Association

The Association proposes to continue its review of the various aspects of Water Resource Management relating particularly to Education and Research, Safety, and Promulgation of information on Water Resource projects.

## 7. Conclusion

The Association envisages that the type of administrative authority proposed would function in much the same way as the Oil and Gas Conservation Board. The latter body is internationally recognized as a model form of administration for laws governing the oil and gas industry and reflects great credit on the government of the Province.

It is considered that one of the main reasons for the effectiveness of the Oil and Gas Conservation Board is the high degree of involvement of industry in the deliberations of the Board. The proposed new Water Resources Authority should provide a medium for similar involvement of segments of the public affected in a major way by the development of Alberta's Water Resources.

The Association strongly urges the government to give immediate consideration to the establishment of an Alberta Water Resources Authority which, the Association is convinced, would provide an administrative organization which could be as effective in the field of Water Resources as the Oil and Gas Conservation Board is in the petroleum field.





Employment of Consulting Engineers, Geologists  
and Geophysicists by the Alberta Securities Commission

The procedure followed by the Securities Commission in employing consultants to review engineering, geological or geophysical reports in prospectuses is, in the opinion of the Association, undesirable because the name of the consultant for the Commission is not known to the engineer, geologist or geophysicist whose work is under review.

The Association believes this procedure to be detrimental to the public interest because it prevents an exchange of information and opinions on proposals in which the public is going to be asked to participate.

In discussing this matter with the Chairman of the Commission, it was learned that the procedure followed with respect to engineering, geological and geophysical reports is different than that which applies to reviews of prospectuses from the legal and accounting points of view. In those cases, it is common practice for the legal and accounting experts on the staff of the Commission to discuss those aspects of a prospectus with the legal and accounting people working on behalf of the company concerned. This usually results in an appreciation of differing viewpoints by both of the parties concerned with consequent modification of the prospectus to the general benefit of all, including prospective shareholders. It is probable that similar benefits would result from discussion between the experts concerned with the engineering, geological or geophysical aspects of the prospectus.



## Engineering Education

In view of the recent appointment of a government commission to study education in Alberta, it is considered that the Cabinet might be interested in knowing that the Association has had a special committee, under the chairmanship of Dr. D. R. Stanley, working for some considerable time on a study of engineering education in the Province.

The ultimate aim of the study is the development of a master plan for engineering education in Alberta. In conducting its study, the committee established three task groups:

"The World - the Profession - and the Student  
in the year 2010"

"Degrees, Curricula, Continuing Education,  
Teaching, Research, and the Faculty"

"Productive Diversity Among the Campuses,  
Facilities, Funds, and Administrative Policies"

The study is being patterned after a similar undertaking for the University of California in 1965.

The committee will be working closely with the Engineering Faculties at the Universities in Edmonton and Calgary. It is expected that University personnel will shortly be named to each of the task groups.

The Association committee will be pleased to establish liaison with the government commission at the appropriate time.

Apropos of engineering education, the Association wishes to respectfully suggest that, although it appreciates the need for the development of the social sciences and for the work that needs to be





done to correct some of the present social ills, there may be some risk of over-emphasizing those kinds of endeavors to the point where completion of a difficult University program as a basis for a career in business or industry is no longer a source of pride.

It is submitted that the government could do a great deal to indicate to Alberta young people that the public of this Province recognizes that the Alberta way of life is founded on free enterprise and the continued growth and development of our industries and businesses.

#### Alberta Professional Services in Relation to Alberta Projects

The Association has previously stated its reasons for believing that it is in the public interest for the government to encourage, to as great a degree as appears practicable, the utilization of Alberta engineering, geological and geophysical organizations and personnel.

Circulated with this brief is a booklet entitled "Directory of Consultants" which provides an outline of the technical, professional and research facilities available in the Province. The Association believes that the brochure will serve to give some indication to business and industrial developers of the technical and professional resources available in the Province which might be useful to them in connection with their projects.





## Conservation of Surface Areas Adjacent to Resource Developments

The Association recognizes that resource development (for example, mining operations, power developments, etc.) may have at least temporarily a major disrupting effect on adjacent surface areas. A great deal can be done in such circumstances to minimize the effects on surrounding areas and to correct them subsequent to initiation of the development.

In view of recently expressed public concern regarding some such developments, the Association established a committee to study this matter in depth and hopes to be in a position in the near future to make some worthwhile suggestions and perhaps be of material assistance to the government in relation to such situations.

## Federal White Paper on Taxation

The Association wishes to highly commend the Alberta government for its action in establishing a committee to study the implications of the proposals in the White Paper on Taxation.

The Association considers that its members have some special interest in this matter since nearly all of them are either in the middle income group or are operating small corporations. For this reason, the Association will be setting up its own committee to review the White Paper.

The Canadian Council of Professional Engineers, the national body for the profession representing some 58,000 professional engineers across Canada, is also in the process of developing a submission.



## General

- (a) Submission to Cabinet in 1969.

A number of items contained in the 1969 submission are still under study by the Association.

The report on "Expansion of Geological Knowledge of the Province" has been considered by the Research Council of Alberta and as a consequence the Association was asked to name a representative to the Geological Advisory Committee of the Council.

- (b) Change in Name of the Association.

A request has been submitted to the Honorable Mr. Holowach for a minor amendment to the Engineering and Related Professions Act to change the name of the Association to "The Association of Professional Engineers, Geologists and Geophysicists of Alberta".

The cooperation of the Honorable Provincial Secretary in regard to this request is very much appreciated.

The item is being noted here merely as a matter of information.

- (c) Western Congress of Engineering.

A major convention is being organized by the Association to mark the fiftieth anniversary of its founding. The convention will take the form of a Western Congress of Engineering with participation by a number of other engineering organizations, provincial and national.





This year should see the Association exceed 6,000 members (it has for sometime been the third largest provincial engineering group in Canada) which affords another reason for making the Western Congress of Engineering, to be held in Jasper Park Lodge from May 18 to 23, one of the outstanding conventions in Canada in 1970.

Circulated with this brief are copies of the November issue of the Alberta Professional Engineer, the magazine published by the Association. Pages 11 to 14 inclusive provide a very complete outline of the program for the convention.

Letters have recently been sent to the government Ministers whose departments employ large numbers of engineers urging the Ministers to do as much as possible to encourage attendance at the convention.

Some of the engineers in government employ are actively involved in the planning for the meeting.

The Association believes that a convention of the type being planned is of significant importance to the Province. Those in attendance will come from all parts of Canada and from many points in the United States.

(d) Program of Aid to Developing Countries.

A resolution carried at the 1969 Annual Meeting of the Association authorized the Association to work with the Canadian International Development Agency in providing the services of some of the Association members to assist with appropriate projects in developing countries.





Considerable follow-up work has been done with CIDA and the Canadian Executive Service Overseas and the Association has now been provided with a listing of some specific projects requiring professional assistance. The Association is now in the process of seeking members trained in the fields involved who would be prepared to work on these projects.

Members of the Association will pay transportation costs involved in the program. The Association has had assurance that many organizations are prepared to release one or two of their professional people periodically on a short term basis without loss of salary to the personnel concerned.

In connection with aid to developing countries, it is interesting to note that the current Vice President of the Association, Mr. W. A. B. Saunders, recently returned from Zambia where he spent several weeks as an advisor to the President on the establishment of a technical institute in that country. The majority of the personnel in Mr. Saunders advisory group were professional engineers.









